DRAFT WORKING PAPER ON REDUCING THE INCIDENTAL BYCATCH OF SEABIRDS IN LONGLINE FISHERIES

The Extended Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT),

Concerned that some seabird species, notably albatross and petrels, are threatened with global extinction;

Recognising the need to strengthen mechanisms to protect seabirds in the Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean;

Recalling the advice of the 9th meeting of the CCSBT Ecologically Related Species Working Group that the prompt implementation of effective seabird bycatch mitigation measures should be implemented, without delay;

Taking into account the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries (IPOA-Seabirds);

Further taking into account the FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries concerning best practices to reduce incidental catch of seabirds in capture fisheries;

Acknowledging that to date some Members and Cooperating Non-Members have identified the need for, and have either completed or are near finalising, their National Plan of Action on Seabirds;

Noting the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels has established best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures for longline fisheries;

Further recognising the importance of harmonising conservation and management measures with other organisations responsible for managing international fisheries;

Resolves that:

1. Members and Cooperating Non-Members will, to the extent possible, implement the International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catches of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries and the FAO Guidelines on best practices to reduce incidental catch of seabirds in capture fisheries.

Adopts, in accordance with the provisions of Article 8 of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna, the following:

1. Members and Cooperating Non-Members shall collect and record data on seabird incidental bycatch by species, where possible, and report these annually in accordance with the Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG) Data Exchange requirements (adopted at the Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the Commission, 1-4 October 2012). Observers shall to the extent possible take photographs of seabirds caught by fishing vessels and transmit them to national seabird experts or to the CCSBT Secretariat, for confirmation of identification.
2. Members and Cooperating Non-Members shall provide to the Commission as part of their reports to the annual meetings of the Compliance Committee and the Extended Commission information on how they are implementing this Resolution.
3. Members and Cooperating Non-Members shall seek to achieve reductions in levels of seabird bycatch across all fishing areas, seasons, and fisheries through the use of effective

mitigation measures, while giving due consideration to the safety of crew members and the practicability of mitigation measures.

4. While fishing south of 25 degrees South latitude in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) or International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) areas of competence or while fishing south of 30 degrees South latitude in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Area of Competence, Members and Cooperating Non-Members shall ensure that all longline vessels use at least two of the three mitigation measures in **Table 1**. These measures should also be considered for implementation in other areas, as appropriate, consistent with scientific advice.
5. Mitigation measures used pursuant to paragraph 4 above shall conform to the minimum technical standards for these measures, as shown in **Table 1**.
6. The design and deployment of tori lines (bird scaring lines) should also meet the additional specifications for the design and deployment of tori lines provided in **Annex 1**.
7. The Scientific Committee, based on the work of the ERSWG and information from Members and Cooperating Non-Members, will analyse the impact of this Resolution on seabird bycatch no later than for the 2016 annual meeting of the Extended Commission. The Scientific Committee and/or ERSWG shall provide recommendations to the Extended Commission on any modifications that are required, based on the operation of this Resolution and/or further international studies, research or advice on best practice on the issue, in order to make this Resolution more effective.
8. This Resolution shall enter into force on 1 July 2014.

Table 1. Mitigation measures

Mitigation	**Description**	**Minimum Technical Standards**
Night setting with minimum deck lighting	No setting between nautical dawn and before nautical dusk. Deck lighting to be kept to a minimum.	Nautical dusk and nautical dawn are defined as set out in the Nautical Almanac tables for relevant latitude, local time and date. Minimum deck lighting should not breach minimum standards for safety and navigation.
Bird-scaring lines (Tori lines)	Bird-scaring lines shall be deployed during the entire longline setting to deter birds from approaching the branch line.	For vessels greater than or equal to 35 m: • Deploy at least 1 bird-scaring line. Where practical, vessels are encouraged to use a second tori pole and bird scaring line at times of high bird abundance or activity; both tori lines should be deployed simultaneously, one on each side of the line being set. • Aerial extent of bird-scaring lines must be greater than or equal to 100 m. • Long streamers of sufficient length to reach the sea surface in calm conditions must be used. • If operating in the WCPFC area of competence, a mixture of long and short brightly coloured streamers shall be used. Long streamers must be attached to the line with swivels that prevent the streamers from wrapping around the line. Short streamers (greater than 1 m in length) shall be placed no more than 1 m apart. • Long streamers must be at intervals of no more than 5m. For vessels less than 35 m: • Deploy at least 1 bird-scaring line. • Aerial extent must be greater than or equal to 75 m. • Long and/or short (but greater than 1 m in length) streamers must be used and placed at intervals as follows: o Short: intervals of no more than 2 m in the IOTC and ICCAT areas of competence and no more than 1 m in the WCPFC area of competence. o Long: intervals of no more than 5 m for the first 55 m of bird scaring line. • If operating in the WCPFC area of competence, either a mixture of long and short streamers or short

		streamers only can be used. If two bird-scaring lines are used, the two lines must be deployed on opposing sides of the main line. Additional design and deployment guidelines for bird-scaring lines are provided in **Annex 1** of this Resolution.
Line weighting	Line weights to be deployed on the snood prior to setting.	Greater than a total of 45 g attached within 1 m of the hook or; Greater than a total of 60 g attached within 3.5 m of the hook or; Greater than a total of 98 g weight attached within 4 m of the hook or; If operating in the WCPFC area of competence, vessels may also use line weighting of greater than or equal to 40 g attached within 50 cm of the hook.

Annex 1

Supplemental Guidelines for Design and Deployment of Tori Lines

Preamble

Minimum technical standards for deployment of tori lines are found in **Table 1** of this Resolution, and are not repeated here. These supplemental guidelines are designed to assist in the preparation and implementation of tori line regulations for longline vessels. While these guidelines are relatively explicit, improvement in tori line effectiveness through experimentation is encouraged, within the requirements of **Table 1** in the Resolution. The guidelines take into account environmental and operational variables such as weather conditions, setting speed and ship size, all of which influence tori line performance and design in protecting baits from birds. Tori line design and use may change to take account of these variables provided that line performance is not compromised. Ongoing improvement in tori line design is envisaged and consequently review of these guidelines should be undertaken in the future.

Tori line design (see Figure 1)

1. An appropriate towed device on the section of the tori line in the water can improve the aerial extension.
2. The above water section of the line should be sufficiently light that its movement is unpredictable to avoid habituation by birds and sufficiently heavy to avoid deflection of the line by wind.
3. The line is best attached to the vessel with a robust barrel swivel to reduce tangling of the line.
4. The streamers should be made of material that is conspicuous and produces an unpredictable lively action (e.g. strong fine line sheathed in red polyurethane tubing) suspended from a robust three-way swivel (that again reduces tangles) attached to the tori line.
5. Each streamer should consist of two or more strands.
6. Each streamer pair should be detachable by means of a clip so that line stowage is more efficient.

Deployment of tori lines

1. The line should be suspended from a pole affixed to the vessel. The tori pole should be set as high as possible so that the line protects bait a good distance astern of the vessel and will not tangle with fishing gear. Greater pole height provides greater bait protection. For example, a height of around 7 m above the water line can give about 100 m of bait protection.
2. If vessels use only one tori line it should be set to windward of sinking baits. If baited hooks are set outboard of the wake, the streamer line attachment point to the vessel should be positioned several metres outboard of the side of the vessel that baits are deployed. If vessels use two tori lines, baited hooks should be deployed within the area bounded by the two tori lines.
3. Deployment of multiple tori lines is encouraged to provide even greater protection of baits from birds.

4. Because there is the potential for line breakage and tangling, spare tori lines should be carried onboard to replace damaged lines and to ensure fishing operations can continue uninterrupted. Breakaways can be incorporated into the tori line to minimise safety and operational problems should a longline float foul or tangle with the in-water extent of a streamer line.
5. When fishers use a bait casting machine (BCM), they must ensure coordination of tori line and machine by:
    i) ensuring the BCM throws directly under the tori line protection, and
    ii) when using a BCM (or multiple BCMs) that allows throwing to both port and starboard, two tori lines should be used.
6. When casting branchline by hand, fishers should ensure that the baited hooks and coiled branchline sections are cast under the tori line protection, avoiding the propeller turbulence which may slow the sink rate.
7. Fishers are encouraged to install manual, electric or hydraulic winches to improve ease of deployment and retrieval of tori lines.

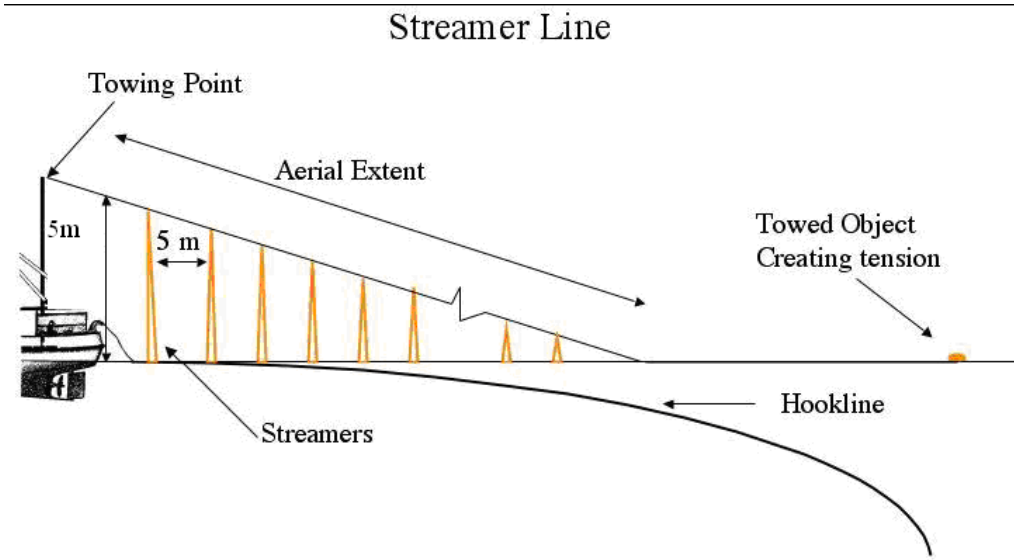

Figure 1. Diagram of Bird Scaring Streamer Line